DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 186 008 IR 008 342

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TITLE Universal Availability of Publications--A Basis of NPLST Activity.
PUB DATE Aug 79
NOTE 14p.: Paper presented at the Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (45th, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 27-September 1, 1979). Best copy available.

EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Foreign Countries; Library Catalogs; Library Facilities; *Library Services; Library Technical Processes; *National Libraries; Natural Sciences; Public Libraries; *Reference Services; Technology
IDENTIFIERS *Scientific and Technical Information; *USSR (Moscow)

ABSTRACT

This paper describes the foreign and some literature collection on scientific research, natural sciences and technology, conference papers, and professional monographs; reference aids and catalogs; library reading facilities; and national and international library services of the National Public Library for Sciences and Technology (NPLST) in the USSR. (CMV)

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Universal Availability of Publications - a Basis of NPLST Activity

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UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS - A BASIS OF NPLST ACTIVITY

The USSR National Public Library for Science and Technology was founded in Moscow in 1958 by a special government decree.

Already in the decree on its foundation the principle of universal availability of publications was laid. It has been reflected in its name (public) and manifests it-self in the main task of the Library - a wide range of library and bibliographical service.

The foundation of this principle is completeness of Library's stock acquisition, and a material basis ensuring its realization is providing the Library with a legal deposit copy of all publications issued on the territory of the Soviet Union according to the Library's acquisition subject fields and also allotment of sufficient financial support for acquiring literature.

During 20 years of its existence the USSR National Public Library for Science and Technology acquired the stock amounting to more than 10 million items, annual acquisitions reaching 700-800 thousand items.

The number of foreign journal in the Library's stock exceeds 7 thousand items.

The collection of home literature is being enlarged owing to a legal deposit copy of the All-Union Book Chamber, paid copies of the Central Book Supply Agency for Scientific Libraries as well as by way of buying literature in book shops, accessions obtained by subscription and gifts.

Completeness of the home literature collection determines its great scientific and cultural value. Works of founders of natural and technical sciences including collections of works by M.V.Lomonosov, D.I.Mendeleev, N.E.Zhukovski, N.I.Lobachevski, K.E.Tsiolkovski are available in the Library. There is a great number of home scientific and technical journals in the stock dating back to their first years of publishing: "Mining Journal" since 1827, "Journal of the Russian Physical and Chemical Society" since 1870, "Electricity" since 1882, "Achievements of Physical Sciences" since 1918.

There is a comprehensive collection of proceedings and serials of research and higher educational institutions.

The Libraty acquires foreign literature through V/O "Mezh - dunarodnaia kniga", purchases it in shops, receives it from international exhibitions and fairs as well as from various organizations abroad.

International book exchange plays an important role in building up this stock. The USSR National Public Library for Science and Technology exchanges publications with 2317 organizations in 42 countries.

The collection of foreign literature on natural sciences and technology is unique as to its structure. There is a great number of monographs, proceedings of international and national symposia, congresses, conferences and scientific societies, universal and branch encyclopaedias, various reference publications and dictionaries, national bibliographies.

Completeness of foreign literature acquisition is lagely promoted by the Library's research on world's repertoire of foreign publications.

Four specialized collections of our stock present great interest for readers of the Library: a collection of catalogs on industrial equipment, unpublished indexes of literature on technology and economy of industry on scientific and technical information, unpublished translations of scientific and technical literature, published algorithms and programmes.

Universal availability of publications would be impossible without well organized reference aids.

The system of catalogs and card files adopted in the MPLST fully reflects home and foreign literature collections.

Three types of catalogs are being maintained in the Library: alphabetical, classified and subject.

The alphabetical catalog is divided into a catalog of books and a catalog of periodicals, each of them consisting of two parts - publications in Russian and publications in foreign languages.

The classified catalog is being kept according to the Universal Decimal Classification. It contains data on all types of publications except periodicals for which there exists a separate classified catalog - index.

The classified catalog is supplemented by a card file of recent acquisitions. To facilitate using the classified catalog an alphabetical and subject index is being maintained.

The subject catalog comprises literature issued from 1946.

Data on periodicals published during the last three years are given in a registration card file.

Special card files - alphabetical, numerical, alphabetical and chronological - contain information on collections of un - published scientific and technical translations.

The universal availability of publications is ensured also by information and bibliographical activity of the Library.

The USSR National Public Library for Science and Technology is an All-Union body of scientific and technical information.

The main trends of the NPLST information activity serve the purpose of acquainting wide circles of readers with its stocks as well as with foreign books and journals acquired by other libraries.

To accomplish this purpose the NPLST publishes the following editions:

- current bibliographical indexes of recent acquisitions of specialized collections;
- retrospective bibliographical indexes on the most topical problems which are of importance for different branches of industry;
- All-Union union catalogs of foreign books and periodicals.

To current bibliographical editions belongs the index "New industrial firm catalogs" issued with the help of computers. It is a fortnightly index which informs readers of new home

and foreign catalogs on machinery which come into the All-Union stock of the NPLST as well as into branch and territorial stocks.

For readers convenience the index is published in two modifications - a union index and 19 branch series having the same frequency.

"Catalog of Bibliographical Indexes in the Field of Technology Compiled by the USSR Libraries" is a monthly publication. It enables readers to widely use unpublished bibliographical lists of literature on technology and prevents duplication in their compilation.

Annual set of "Catalog ..." is supplied with an auxiliary subject index.

The annotated bibliographical index "Algorithms and Programmes" informs readers on acquired by the Library during a month published software for functioning computers.

Documents entries are arranged in the index according to a specially developed scheme - by algorithmic languages and computers types. To the last edition of a year an auxiliary subject index is attached.

Retrospective bibliographical indexes inform readers of the stocks of Soviet and foreign literature published during a certain period on the most topical problems such as preventing pollution of environment, organization of industry management, scientific and technical prognostication and many others.

Since 1970 the Library has been producing a computerized monthly "All-Union Union Catalog of Foreign Books". An annual set of the index contains information on more than 70.000 forei-

books on natural sciences, technology, agriculture and medicine acquired by various lebraries of the USSR. It is published in 2 parts with alphabetical and classified arrangement of the material. The classified part is issued separately in four branch series: natural sciences, technology, agriculture, medicine.

"All-Union union catalog of foreign periodicals" is published in a similar way. It informs readers on the foreign journals subscribed to by the country's organizations for a current year as well as on the journals received from abroad in the previous year. It is prepared with the help of the computer. All-Union union indexes are widely used by readers when being served through interlibrary loan system.

From 1974 the library provide readers with current awareness information on issued foreign magazines.

The library publishes annually "Catalog of Current Awareness Information on Foreign Magazines" where 2500 titles of the magazines in original languages and in translation are arranged according to branches of science and technology.

Those readers who became the users of current awareness system have an opportunity to obtain the copies of contents of foreign magazines they are interested in and to order copies of articles they need. This activity is carried out by the NPLST workshop in full cirrespondence with copyright convention. Copying of the materials is being done on scientific and educational purposes without making any profit.

Universal availability of publications is ensured in the NPLST by providing readers with literature through 3 channels such as:

- servicing in the reading halls;
- servicing through interlibrary loan;
- making copies of separate articles and publications on readers requests.

The number of readers visiting the Library's reading halls exceeded 106 thousand. Readers structure is rather multiform. It includes scientists, engineers and technicians, workers, instructors, post-graduates and students, information workers etc. Both Soviet citizens and foreigners who live in Moscow attend the library.

Every day up to 3 thousand readers visit the Library reading halls.

With a view to provide better servicing of different categories of readers visiting the library a system of specialized reading halls was set up in the MPLST. It includes 2 general reading halls and 7 specialized ones according to type of literature and to categories of readers.

The following specialized reading halls are functioning in the library:

- a hall of recent acquisitions;
- a hall of industrial firm catalogs;
- a hall of literature on phisics and mathematics and algorithms and software;
- a hall of bibliographical reference literature;
- a hall of literature on library science and scintifi. and technical information;
- a hall of small sized literature and microforms;

- a hall for professors.

Each specialized hall is equipped with its own auxiliary collection and relevant reference aids (catalogs and different card files).

A need in differential information and library servicing of different categories of readers resulted in creation of priority servicing system in the library.

Information workers, librarians, officials of central administrative bodies, prominent scientists and industry leaders have a right to use priority service.

For this category of readers the reading hall of recent acquisitions is opened once in a week. In this hall they can familiarize themselves with the literature acquired by the NPLST during the previous week and order copies. However as far as availability of publications is concerned this category of readers have no privileges in comparison with other readers.

The NPLST have the branches with reading halls and auxilary collections in different organizations where the specialists of these organizations are served.

This category of readers as far availibility of literature is concerned have equal opportunities with readers who visit reading halls.

With a view to bring its collections closer to readers the library founded in 1979 the branches in two Moscow districts. In these branches the library collections are available for those readers who live and work in these very districts. The branches auxilary collections contain the literature oriented

to the needs of the specialists working in the districts. The literature which is not available in the branches is supplied from the main depository collections. It is planned to set up two more branches in other Moscow districts before the end of the year.

More than 9 million units of literature are lent annualy to readers in the reading halls.

The library carries out active popularization of literature available in its collections by organizing exhibitions, seminars, review lectures, readers conferences.

By doing this work it contributes to familiarization of readers with the NPLST collections and consequently to universal availability of publications.

Last year 754 exhibitions were organized including 398 subject ones. Only at subject exihibitions 33784 copies of literature were displayed. More than 2 thousand of readers visited the exhibition "Foreign literature on the topical problems of science and technology available in the NPLST collections. 1976-1978".

The exhibition "Organization experience of industrial development of Siberia and the Far East" enjoyed wide popularity among readers. The exhibitions were held in Moscow, Khabarovsk, Alma-Ata and in other cities of the Soviet Union. They were also held abroad - in Belgrade, Budapest, Warsaw, Sofia, Prague, Ulhan-Ude, Helsinki and in other cities.

A Significant role as far as universal availability of publications is concerned is played by interlibrary loan.

The NPLST is functioning as the All-Union interlibrary loan centre on natural sciences and technology. By means of the interlibrary loan system more than 16 thousand corporate users disposed in 1500 settlements of the Soviet Union use the Library's collections free of charge. These are libraries and information services of research and designing organizations, enterprises, higher educational institutions and other establishments of the country.

Annualy the Library lends and distributes through interlibrary loan more than 700 thousand copies and originals of documents.

In cases when a material is requested in the form of copies with volume of up 10 pages they are made for the user free of charge and are sent to him for good.

Beginning from 1969 computerized control of lending and returning within interlibrary loan takes place in the NPLST.

Availability of any document from the NPLST collections to citizens of other countries is provided by international loan service which is constantly being developed and improved.

In 1978 190 foreign organizations from 27 countries applied to the NPLST through international loan.

There were in all received requests from them for 14764 publications; 91% of the requests were satisfied, 9% were returned to users for clarification.

50 organizations applied to the Library for the first time. Among them are:

- Central University Library of Tulai, Malaysia;

- Centre of applied phisics, Madrid, Spain;
- Centre of technical documentation, Arvida, Canada;
- Centre of technical documentation, Union Beach, USA;
- Library of machine-building plant, Chirkan, the People's Republic of Bulgaria;
- Centre of ship-building equipment, Gdansk, the Polish People's Republic.

A number of requests by the NPLST over the telex has been considerably increased which makes it possible to satisfy them in more shorter periods of time.

The total number of requests received by telex amounts to 670. During the same year on requests of the NPLST readers there were forwarded 190 orders for the literature not availabile in the USSR to the libraries of the Great Britain, USA, France, Federal Republic of Germany and Finland. According to these orders 165 printed items were obtained.

On a level with readers servicing in the reading halls and through interlibrary loan, the activity on making and distribution of copies of separate articles from the Library collections on readers requests plays important role as far as universal availability of the NPLST collections is conserned.

For a year more than 450 thousand requests for xerocopies and microcopies come in the production workshop. They include more than 150 thousand requests from the readers attending reading halls and 300 thousand requests sent by post from any person or organisation of the whole country. On all the requests

(including those concerning interlibrary loan) the production workshop makes more than 77 million pages of xerocopies and microcopies per year.

Cashes for making copies in the production workshop are payed in accordance with price-list in force for all types of information services.

The whole NPLST activity including acqusition, classification and subject indexing of collections, information and bibliographic work in the field of library science and creation of automated systems - all this finally pursue a sole object of all possible improvement of servicing the Library readers and universal availability of publications from its collections.